Formation of Road Safety Department to Monitor and Reduce Road Accidents

1015. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to form a seperate Department of road safety to monitor and reduce road accidents all over the country;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) how does Government propose to bring more focus on road safety in 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The primary responsibility for taking measures to check road accidents and to monitor the progress in this regard lies with the enforcement agencies in the States i.e. State Transport Departments, Police and PWD authorities. The Government evoives overall police guidelines for the sake of uniform adoption. For this purpose, a seperate Road Safety Cell has been created in this Ministry. As such there is no need to create a separate department of road safety.

(b) With a view to check the road accidents, the Government has drawn up a comprehensive Action Plan which includes creation of awareness among the road users through press, media and other rpossible target audience. The Government also provides some financial assistance to the State Governments to strengthen their publicity campaigns and also to assist them in other road safety related measures. This is a continues process.

Unauthorise Construction in Delhi

1016. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent statement by a Member of Parliament regarding some unauthorised constructions in the city of Delhi;

(b) whether it is fact that unauthorised construction in the city is a common feature in connivance with the Police Officers and civic body officials in that area; and

(c) whether Government propose to ask the civic body to review the building bylaws and publicise the essential parts thereof whereunder construction upto a certain level is permitted without any interferance from the police or the civic body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decentralising Ahmedabad Telecom Circle

1017. SHRI GOPALSINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bifurcate Ahmedabad telecom into two separate administrative units;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken by Goverment to decentralise Ahmedabad telecom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A proposal for bifurcating Ahmedabad Telecom District into two Telecom Districts viz. Ahmedabad and Ghandinagar was received from Gujarat

Telecom Circle. The bifurcation of Ahmedabad Telecom District into two administrative units has not been found justified on the basis of existing policy of creating secondary switching Areas.

(c) Question does not arise.

STD Facilities in Rural Areas of Andhra Pradesh

1018. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STD calls do not materilise easily between Hyderabad and rural areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) whether Government propose to improve STD calling facility to rural areas in Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No. Sir. Quality of STD service in Andhra Pradesh as judged by the STD call completion rate is quite satisfactory.

(b) Yes, Sir. the quality of STD service in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh is planned to be further imporved during 1995-96 by augmenting the number of STD circuits and also by provision of reliable transmission meida such as U.H.F. radio, optical fibre and cable PCM systems.

Funds to Panchayats for Afforestation of Villages

1019. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would sanction funds directly to Gram Panchayats for afforestation of villages;

(b) whether any proposal have been received from Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI RAJESTH PILOT): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests does not have a scheme for sanctioning funds directly to Gram Panchayats for afforestation of villages. The Ministry has however taken a decision recently to recognise Panchayats at par with Non-Governmental organisations to enable them to avail of financial assistance under various schemes of Ministry to promote afforestation and tree plantation in villages.

(b) and (c) No. sir.

Awards for Best Envronmental Achievements

1020. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to institute district-wise awards all over the country for best environmental achievements in 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are monitoring the afforestation efforts all over the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has announced an award called "Zile Ki Sabse Hari Panchayat" to be given to that Panchayat in each district of the country which shows the best afforestation effort. The award is aimed to encourage tree plantation on community or public lands within the jurisdiction of Panchayats and shall carry cash prize of Rs. 1 lac to the best panchayat in each district assessed on the basis of